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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2007 2:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Cyberstalking Law Takes Effect

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today recognized Nebraska's cyberstalking law will go into effect on Sept 1. The law makes it a crime for adults to send sexually explicit material to minors using electronic communication devices, such as computers, e-mails and text messages.

State Senator Mike Friend introduced the legislation in January as part of the Attorney General's legislative package.

"Child predators have gone high-tech, and our laws needed to reflect that," Bruning said. "This law will help provide law enforcement with the tools they need to protect our children."

"We as a society have to stay focused on changes in criminal behavior and how our laws apply to those changes," Friend said. "This law will allow our prosecutors to effectively deal with predators that are using the Internet to become more and more aggressive."

Under the cyberstalking law, adults over 18 who knowingly send sexually explicit language and material to victims under 16 could be charged with a class IV felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. Previously, no specific crime for sending sexually explicit material to minors existed. At best, the action could have been charged as a class I misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

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An audio clip about the law is posted on the Attorney General's web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2007, 9:15am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Pennsylvania Cabinetmaker Pays \$150,000 for Environmental Violations, Funds Auburn Nature Trail

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Armstrong Wood Products out of Pennsylvania will pay \$150,000 to settle allegations that it violated Nebraska's clean air and hazardous waste disposal standards.

Under the settlement, Armstrong will pay \$75,000 in fines that will go to the Nebraska Common Schools Fund and \$75,000 to the city of Auburn to construct a public nature trail as a supplemental environmental project.

"We have a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of Nebraskans," Bruning said. "Armstrong acknowledged its actions, and gave back to the community of Auburn. This nature trail will promote healthy lifestyles for all Nebraskans."

In January, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality inspectors discovered Armstrong failed to provide proper training to employees monitoring air quality. It also failed to maintain records documenting air quality control activities and repairs. Finally, the company failed to identify discarded paint filters as hazardous waste and disposed of them improperly.

Assistant Attorney General Natalee Hart handled the complaint and settlement.

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An audio clip about the settlement is posted on the Attorney General's web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2007, 5:45pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Pediatric Nurse's License Suspended for Child Voyeurism

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that the State of Nebraska has temporarily suspended the nursing license of former pediatric nurse Mark Norris, 35, of Scottsbluff.

"The safety of our children is our first priority," Bruning said. "We'll do everything we can to make sure our children are not at risk, especially with those who care for them. Mr. Norris should not be able to practice nursing in Nebraska again."

An investigation by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Public Health found Norris was arrested on Aug. 4 at SeaWorld in Orlando, Fla., on charges of voyeurism and disorderly conduct. A security guard found Norris lingering in the men's restroom watching young boys, ages 10 to 12, urinating. Norris was temporarily in Florida working at a camp for chronically ill children.

Norris' license is suspended pending a disciplinary hearing to be held Sept. 6 in Lincoln. Following the hearing, Dr. Joann Schaefer, the state's Chief Medical Officer, will determine the appropriate disciplinary action, including license revocation or suspension, probation or other forms of discipline.

Assistant Attorney General Susan Ugai handled the complaint.

###

An audio clip about the suspension is posted on the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.

From: holley.hatt@ago.ne.gov

Re:

Date: 08/21/2007 10:33 AM

Subject: REVISED MEDIA ADVISORY: Attorney General Jon Bruning to Visit North Platte Chamber of Commerce TODAY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 21, 2007, 10:30am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****
Bruning to Research Gas Pricing
at the North Platte Chamber of Commerce at Noon
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21

(Lincoln) Attorney General Jon Bruning will visit the North Platte Chamber of Commerce to research gas pricing along Interstate-80, at noon, on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 502 S Dewey St., in North Platte, Neb. He will be available for media questions.

Holley Hatt
Communications Director
Attorney General Jon Bruning, State of Nebraska
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Attorney General Jon Bruning

MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 21, 2007, 8:30am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

MEDIA ADVISORY

**Bruning to Research Gas Pricing at the Holiday
Plaza Conoco Gas Station, 102 Holiday
Frontage Rd., at Noon in North Platte
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21**

(Lincoln) Attorney General Jon Bruning will visit the Holiday Plaza Conoco Gas Station to research gas pricing along Interstate-80, at noon, on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at 102 Holiday Frontage Rd., in North Platte, Neb. He will be available for media questions.

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JON BRUNING

Attorney General of Nebraska

Guest Column: August 20, 2007

Contact: Holley Hatt, 402-471-2067

Understanding Nebraska's Obligations in the Republican River Compact By Attorney General Jon Bruning

Recent comments by Kansas Attorney General Paul Morrison at the Republican River Compact meeting have created some concern in Nebraska about the future. Keeping in mind that no one can predict the future, here is the history of the compact and the legal landscape as it exists today.

Nebraska entered into a compact with Kansas and Colorado in 1943. That agreement gave 49 percent of the water in the Republican River to Nebraska, 40 percent to Kansas and 11 percent to Colorado. Each year the supply changes depending on the rain in the basin and the amount of water stored in the seven federal reservoirs. In 1998, Kansas sued Nebraska and Colorado claiming we both were using more than our share. The case was settled, in part, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that depletions to river flow caused by groundwater use would count as part of the supply available to the states and did not find any state used more than its share. The settlement determined how states would include groundwater use in the compact accounting.

Even with the inclusion of groundwater use, in normal water conditions like those in 1995 through 2001, Nebraska uses less than its allocation each year. Seven years of drought, however, have brought available supply to an all-time low. In response, Nebraska no longer allows increases in irrigated acres or new wells, and limited groundwater allocations were adopted throughout the basin. Many groundwater users have reduced their pumping even lower than their allocations allow. Similarly, surface water users have agreed to relinquish the use of their water so that it can be given directly to Kansas. Nebraska also has reduced the number of irrigated acres through the CREP and EQUIP programs.

So what happens next? In normal years, Nebraska's water use is well within its compact share. In non-normal drought years, additional measures are needed. These include adopting lower allocations and working out long-term surface water leases to send across the state line. These water leases provide the best bang for the buck for Nebraska and for Kansas. Vegetation management may also be useful.

As for compact compliance, the compact provides for the water administrators in the three states to meet and agree on the compact numbers. That process will move forward this fall. If the states cannot agree on the numbers, the settlement includes a dispute resolution mechanism. The dispute resolution process includes nonbinding arbitration. If the dispute is not resolved by arbitration then any state has the option of presenting the issue to the U.S. Supreme Court.

No one wants more litigation. Our hope remains that we can work with Kansas to ensure Nebraska gets the water it is entitled to and meets its obligations under the compact. We know that's a tall order. If we can't avoid court, rest assured I and my office will do everything we can to defend Nebraska's interests.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 13, 2007 11:45am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Judge Gives Schroeder Life in Prison for Murdering Pawnee County Man

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Patrick Schroeder, 30, of Dubois was sentenced in Pawnee County District Court to life in prison for first degree murder, 20 years in prison for use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony and 30 to 60 years in prison for forgery as a habitual criminal. All three sentences will be served consecutively.

“Justice prevailed today,” Bruning said. “Mr. Schroeder brutally took a man’s life and now he’ll pay by spending the rest of his life in prison. I hope this brings some closure to the Albers family and to the residents of Pawnee City.”

On April 14, 2006, Schroeder murdered his former employer, Kenneth Albers of Pawnee City, while robbing him at his home. Albers died of blunt force trauma to the head. Albers’ body was later found in an abandoned well on his property southwest of Pawnee City.

The forgery charges stem from an incident on April 10 when Schroeder stole a checkbook from Albers, forged Albers’ signature on a check, and cashed it.

Assistant Attorneys General Doug Warner and Jeff Gaertig handled the case.

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An audio clip about the sentence is posted on the Attorney General's web site at www.ago.state.ne.us.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2007, 4:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Nelnet to Give Nebraska \$1 million for Need-based Aid and Legal Aid Loan Forgiveness Program

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced Lincoln-based student loan provider Nelnet has agreed to give \$1 million for student loan assistance programs in the state of Nebraska.

"Defending Nebraska's taxpayers is my foremost priority," Bruning said. "If there has been a misunderstanding by anyone about the nature of the state's agreement with Nelnet, I want to fix that. Out of an abundance of caution, I re-approached Nelnet about our agreement. Today's action eliminates the opportunity for political gamesmanship by those who may want to create the perception of a conflict of interest."

Half of Nelnet's contribution, or \$500,000, will be placed in the already existing Nebraska State Grant fund for need-based scholarships, which is distributed by the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. The other \$500,000 will be placed in a trust fund established on behalf of Legal Aid of Nebraska at the Omaha Community Foundation. The interest from the trust will fund a Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) to enhance recruitment and retention of Legal Aid attorneys who serve indigent Nebraskans.

"This agreement is even better for Nebraska students and their families," Bruning said. "Instead of sending \$1 million to finance a national education project, we're keeping the money right here in Nebraska for student aid."

"We are pleased to support these two worthy organizations with a contribution that fulfills the commitment we made in our voluntary agreement with the state of Nebraska," said Jeff Noordhoek, Nelnet president. "Nelnet has led the education finance industry in an effort to increase transparency in the financial aid process. Our mission has always been about helping students and families plan and pay for their education with our products and services."

"The contribution to LRAP will serve impoverished Nebraskans like no other program. We're very grateful to be considered in this settlement," Doug German, Executive Director of Legal Aid of Nebraska, said. "The longer our lawyers can stay in their positions, the more experienced they become, and the better they're able to serve Nebraskans who have nowhere else to go for legal aid."

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 10, 2007, 3:30 pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Former Deputy Phelps County Treasurer Pleads No Contest to Stealing County Funds

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced former Deputy Phelps County Treasurer Mary Hammond, 66, entered a plea of no contest to one felony charge of theft by unlawful taking in Phelps County District Court today.

"Ms. Hammond earned the trust of taxpayers and her coworkers over 38 years, and destroyed it in five months," Bruning said. "This office will make sure those who violate the public trust are held accountable."

According to internal county and Nebraska State Patrol investigations, Hammond stole more than \$30,000 in county funds between January 1 and May 7, 2007, by keeping a portion of the county's bank deposits which she was responsible for delivering to the bank. She then made false accounting ledger entries to cover her embezzlement.

Hammond was terminated from her position in the Phelps County Treasurer's office on May 7.

When over \$1,500 is stolen, theft by unlawful taking is a class III felony, punishable by one to 20 years in prison, a \$25,000 fine, or both. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for Oct. 16 at 11:30 a.m. in Phelps County District Court.

Criminal Bureau Chief John Freudenberg and Assistant Attorney General Jeff Gaertig are handling the case.

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An audio clip about the plea is posted on the Attorney General's web site at www.ago.ne.gov.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 9, 2007, 11:30am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Comments on School Finance Litigation

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today responded to comments by the Nebraska Schools Trust regarding state education finance litigation.

“We take our job defending the state and the taxpayers very seriously,” Bruning said.

“We have not received any proposal regarding the stay from opposing counsel. If we do, we will review it and consult with the Governor and our clients.”

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August 8, 2007

Saving Money on Fuel Isn't a Magic Trick

Dear Consumer,

Nebraska has seen some of the highest gas prices in the nation this summer. As gas prices rise, so do the number of offers for "gas saving" products. These products can take the form of everything, from pills or powder that you drop into your gas tank, to bottles of "magic potion", to fuel system magnets.

A couple of weeks ago at the Madison County Fair, I saw a booth promoting a gas additive called BioPerformance. Sales representatives claimed that the powder, when added to your fuel tank, reduces pollution and increases fuel efficiency. Their literature alleged the product has been registered with the EPA or has passed EPA evaluations. Registering a product with the EPA does not involve testing or verification of product claims.

In January, a court in Texas ordered BioPerformance to pay \$7 million back to consumers for deceptive marketing and operating a pyramid scheme. In a 2006 study, the Environmental Protection Agency tested more than 100 gas-saving devices and not one was found to significantly improve fuel efficiency.

Be extremely cautious if you are considering a gas additive. Always ask the manufacturer for data to prove its claims, and research the product before purchasing it.

You don't have to resort to magic products to save gas money. There are other ways to increase your gas mileage and protect your pocketbook. You can find the following tips and more at the U.S. Department of Energy's web site, www.fueleconomy.gov.

- Refrain from "hard driving." Sudden stops and starts can decrease your gas mileage by as much as 33% on the highway and 5% in town.
- Refrain from idling. It uses gas, and you are getting zero miles per gallon.
- Keep your car engine properly tuned. This can improve gas mileage by an average of 4%. Fixing a serious problem like a faulty oxygen sensor can improve your gas mileage by as much as 40%.
- Keep your tires properly inflated and aligned. This can increase your gas mileage by 3%.
- Drive the speed limit. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 it is like paying an extra \$.20 per

gallon at the pump.

A few simple changes in your driving habits is more effective than questionable gas additives.

If you have any questions, contact our Consumer Protection Division toll-free at (800)727-6432 or file a complaint online at www.ago.ne.gov.

Best wishes,



Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska

For more information, contact:
Consumer Protection Division
Nebraska Attorney General's Office
Toll Free: 1.800.727.6432
Email: nedoj@ago.ne.gov

En Espanol:
1.888.850.7555
Llamada gratuita en Nebraska
Senior Outreach Hotline:
1.888.287.0778
Web site: www.ago.ne.gov

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 3, 2007, 12:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Meets with Indian Foreign Secretary, Discusses U.S. India Relations

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today met with Indian Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon in New Delhi. The two discussed U.S.-India relations. Bruning's visit to New Delhi is part of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership program.

Menon was appointed to his top diplomatic position in October 2006 after a distinguished career. Throughout his tenure with India's Ministry of External Affairs, he has held positions, including High Commissioner to Pakistan and Sri Lanka and Ambassador to Israel and China. Menon also served as Director of the Department of Atomic Energy where he advised India's Atomic Energy Commission.

Menon has stressed the development of bio-technology, nanotechnology and defense technology in his relations with the United States. In July, he announced a revised cooperative agreement between the U.S. and India to develop nuclear capability for India's power needs.

"India is making a name for itself in energy, in technology, and as a force regionally," Bruning said. "U.S.-India relations are vital to the fight against terrorism and the preservation of a stable balance of power in Asia over the long term."

As an Aspen-Rodel fellow, Bruning is meeting with government officials, business leaders and diplomats in China and India. The purpose of the seven-day trip is to understand how developments in Asia impact American policy.

The Aspen-Rodel Fellowship program was founded in 2005 to provide the nation's top young political leaders with a better understanding of America's underlying democratic principles and to help foster civility in the public arena.

- MORE -

Other participants include Jason Atkinson, State Senator, Oregon; Scott Avedisian, Mayor of Warwick, Rhode Island; Andre Bauer, Lieutenant Governor, South Carolina; Laura Brod, State Representative, Minnesota, former Assistant House Majority Leader; Robin Carnahan, Secretary of the State, Missouri; Adolfo Carrion, President, Bronx Borough; Karen Carter, State Representative, Louisiana, Lynn Jenkins, State Treasurer, Kansas; Dianne Jones, Attorney, former Texas Criminal Court Judge; Tom Kean, Jr., State Senator, New Jersey; Rob McKenna, Attorney General, Washington; Jonathan Miller, State Treasurer, Kentucky; Erik Paulsen, State Representative, Minnesota, former House Majority Leader; Tom Perez, Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Maryland, and former president of the Montgomery County, Maryland City Council; Todd Rokita, Secretary of State, Indiana; Andrew Romanoff, State Representative, Colorado; Andrew Roraback, State Senator, Connecticut; Jennifer Veiga, State Senator, Colorado; and Darren White, Sheriff, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

The two-year nonpartisan program is sponsored by the Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit leadership organization, and the Rodel Foundation, a group of public and private organizations committed to improving education.

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A photo of Menon and Attorney General Jon Bruning is attached.



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 2, 2007 4:30pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Announces License Revocation for Pharmacist Who Traded Prescription Drugs for Sex

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that Nebraska's Chief Medical Officer has revoked the pharmacy license of Randy Paulsen, 65, of Omaha.

"Mr. Paulsen used his license to have his way with women who couldn't afford medication," Bruning said. "He's no longer allowed to practice pharmacy in Nebraska."

In March, an investigation by the State Pharmacy Inspector and the Drug Enforcement Administration Diversion Investigator found Paulsen had been exchanging free prescription drugs for sexual favors with two female customers over the last four to six years. Investigators also conducted a controlled substance audit at Randy's Pharmacy. The audit determined certain controlled substances were missing from the pharmacy's inventory, including Ativan, an antianxiety medication, and Tussionex, a pain medication.

In April, following the investigation, Paulsen's license was temporarily suspended. Assistant Attorney General Lisa Anderson handled the complaint.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2007, 2:45pm CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Court Dismisses Niobrara River Case

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Bruning applauded a ruling issued today by U.S. District Court Judge Lyle Strom that dismissed a challenge to the State of Nebraska's management of the Niobrara River.

"This ruling upholds a surface water law that has been on the books and enforced by the state since 1895," Bruning said. "There are better ways to settle our water disputes than with lawsuits and lawyers."

On May 11, eight irrigators along the Niobrara River filed a proposed class action lawsuit that challenged the state's 112-year-old prior appropriation law. The Nebraska Constitution gives the state the authority to regulate surface water in the "first in time, first in right" manner. In this case, Nebraska Public Power District, a senior water right holder, made a call for surface water.

Strom granted the state's motion to dismiss the case on the grounds that the irrigators should have requested an administrative hearing to challenge the action under state law instead of filing a lawsuit in federal district court.

Chief Deputy Attorney General Dave Cookson and Assistant Attorney General Justin Lavene handled the case.

###



Attorney General Jon Bruning

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2007, 10:00am CDT

Contact: Holley Hatt
402.471.2067

Bruning Meets with Democratic Reform Activist in China

(Lincoln, NE) Attorney General Jon Bruning today met with Li Fan, an expert on grass-roots democracy in China and director of the World and China Institute, an independent think tank in Beijing. Bruning's visit to Beijing is part of the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowships in Public Leadership program.

The World and China Institute was founded in 1994 as a nongovernmental, nonprofit research institute consisting of scholars, government employees, policy analysts and entrepreneurs. The organization has been instrumental in promoting democracy since the beginning of the reform movement in China.

"China's development over the last five years is astounding. From the proliferation of the Internet and cell phones to the development of commerce, China is on the move," Bruning said. "China will continue to play an important role in the international arena. Their hunger for advancement in agriculture, industry and technology gives them an important place in America's and Nebraska's future."

As an Aspen-Rodel fellow, Bruning is also meeting with government officials, business leaders and diplomats in China and India. The purpose of the seven-day trip is to understand how developments in Asia impact American policy.

The Aspen-Rodel Fellowship program was founded in 2005 to provide the nation's top young political leaders with a better understanding of America's underlying democratic principles and to help foster civility in the public arena.

Other participants include Jason Atkinson, State Senator, Oregon; Scott Avedisian, Mayor of Warwick, Rhode Island; Andre Bauer, Lieutenant Governor, South Carolina; Laura Brod, State Representative, Minnesota, former Assistant House Majority Leader; Robin Carnahan, Secretary of the State, Missouri; Adolfo Carrion, President, Bronx Borough; Karen Carter, State Representative, Louisiana; Lynn Jenkins, State Treasurer, Kansas; Dianne Jones, Attorney, former Texas Criminal Court Judge; Tom Kean, Jr., State Senator, New Jersey; Rob McKenna, Attorney General, Washington;

- MORE -

Jonathan Miller, State Treasurer, Kentucky; Erik Paulsen, State Representative, Minnesota, former House Majority Leader; Tom Perez, Secretary of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation, Maryland, and former president of the Montgomery County, Maryland City Council; Todd Rokita, Secretary of State, Indiana; Andrew Romanoff, State Representative, Colorado; Andrew Roraback, State Senator, Connecticut; Jennifer Veiga, State Senator, Colorado; and Darren White, Sheriff, Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

The two-year nonpartisan program is sponsored by the Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit leadership organization, and the Rodel Foundation, a group of public and private organizations committed to improving education.

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A photo of Fan and Attorney General Jon Bruning is attached.